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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION AND THE MARYLAND
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION ANNOUNCE RESEARCH GRANTS
TO SUPPORT MARYLAND'S OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT**

\$2 million in offshore wind energy research will provide critical scientific information regarding Maryland's offshore wind area.

Annapolis, Maryland (February 4, 2012) — Today, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission, announced a \$2 million Request for Application (RFA) to further Maryland's role as an offshore wind energy development hub. The RFA, funded from monies committed by Exelon as a condition of its merger with Constellation Energy, requests competitive proposals from Maryland's public colleges and universities for research grants between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000.

"Offshore wind has the potential to be a big 'win' for our State: a win for jobs, a win for consumers, a win for business, and a win for our energy future—an energy future which is cleaner, greener, and more sustainable," said Abigail Ross Hopper, Acting Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. "The research gathered by these grants will not only help Maryland reap the benefits of offshore wind, but it will also cement Maryland's position as a leader in this new energy economy."

The deployment and manufacturing of offshore wind energy generation is an important investment in reducing Maryland's energy consumption, improving grid stability and decreasing the State's greenhouse gas emissions. Offshore wind is an important renewable energy technology that will help Maryland advance its Renewable Portfolio Standard of 20% with in-state generation by 2022. It also provides significant opportunities to create jobs in this emerging market.

"The Maryland Higher Education Commission is pleased to be working with the Maryland Energy Administration and public higher education institutions to develop the next generation of renewable energy for our state" said Danette Howard, Secretary of Higher Education. "This is a great opportunity for higher education institutions to contribute to knowledge discovery and application in Offshore Wind Energy in Maryland."

Topics for the grant application are not limited to, but include, modeling and analysis, marine environment impact studies, infrastructure, superstructure and operations research and planning. Applicants are encouraged to build upon current research sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and other institutions. Applications are due April 15, 2013. There will be a technical assistance meeting held at the

Maryland Association of Community Colleges, 60 West Street, Annapolis, MD at 1:30 p.m. on February 28, 2013.

To RSVP for the technical assistance meeting, or find out more about this grant opportunity, contact Melinda Vann, Director of Outreach and Grants Management at the Maryland Higher Education Commission at 410.767.3269 or mvann@mhec.state.md.us. You may also visit the MHEC grants web site for a copy of the Request for Application at <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/Grants/index.asp>.

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The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote affordable, reliable, clean energy. MEA's programs and policies help lower energy bills, fuel the creation of green collar jobs, address environmental and climate impacts, and promote energy independence.